

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18, 19, 21 and 23, claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 17, 20 and 22 being withdrawn. In view of Applicant's remarks below, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18, 19, 21 and 23 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The Objections to the Drawings

With respect to the Examiner's objection to the drawings as not showing the 'utilization device' recited in the claims, Applicant has submitted herewith amended drawing Figures 1 and 3 to now illustrate the utilization device recited in the claims.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection to the drawing figures now be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph Rejection of Claims 4, 18, 19, 21 and 23

The Examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 4, 18, 19, 21 and 23 as not being adequately described in the specification in such a way so as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention. In response, Applicant respectfully asserts that the specification does, in fact, describe the subject matter of claims 4, 18, 19, 21 and 23 in a manner so as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention, as follows:

1) With respect to the recitation that the slave roller 246 drives the slit web faster than the master roller 240, Applicant notes page 8, lines 9-12 which specifically state that the 'three-up processing' embodiment shown in Figure 3 is "similar to two-up processing described in Figures 1 and 2", and further that "like components ... are numbered 200 greater than like components of the preferred embodiment" of Figure 1.

Applicant therefore notes that 'slave roller' 246 is numbered 200 greater than 'slave roller' 46 in Figure 1, and that 'master roller' 240 is 200 greater than 'master roller' 40 in Figure 1. Moreover, as specifically recited on page 6, lines 6-9,

"The slave roller 46 drives the first web ribbon 24 at a speed equal to or greater than that of the driven master roller 40. This speed variance is enabled by differing the circumference of the two rollers, by gearing through which the timing belt 42 is attached, or any other means known in the art."

With such disclosure as originally filed, Applicant respectfully asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would certainly be apprised that by *'differing the circumference of the two rollers, by gearing through which the timing belt is attached, or any other means known in the art'* the slave roller 246 may drive the slit web faster than the master roller 240; and

2) With respect to the Examiner's concerns over the use of the equational relationships recited in claim 21, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims as originally filed do, in fact, constitute a portion of the disclosure, and therefore may provide the basis for amendments to the specification to support such claims language; see, MPEP § 2163.06. For the purposes of advancing prosecution, however, Applicant has amended claim 21 to remove the recited equations.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 4, 18, 19, 21 and 23 now be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Second Paragraph Rejection of Claims 16, 21 and 23

The Examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 16, 21 and 23 as being indefinite. In response, Applicant has the following comments:

1) With respect to claim 16, Applicant respectfully asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would be apprised of the scope and meaning of the term 'bypassable' as utilized in claim 16, and in association with the specification of the present application.

As utilized in claim 16, the term 'bypassable' is meant to infer the *selective* use of the turnbars and slitters in the present apparatus. That is, should an operator of the present apparatus not wish to cut and stack differing web ribbons, the present apparatus may bypass the slitters and turnbars, thus giving the present apparatus great flexibility and utility in the art.

As discussed on Pages 11 and 12 of the present specification,

*"One further advantage of the present invention is that paper may be fed and crosscut without necessarily being slit or merged. When larger pages are desired, the slitter may be retracted and a single, wide swath of paper will pass through to the rotary cutter. Alternatively, the slitter may be retained and the ribbons may not be merged [therefore, not employing the merging turnbars] so as to yield side-by-side stacks of pages, such as where consecutive pages of a print job are not printed in side by side relation but one after another within the same ribbon of the web. This **bypassable** characteristic is particularly valuable to smaller print shops whose equipment must be made to serve multiple purposes, and is a feature largely absent from many of the devices currently available to slit and merge paperweb."* (emphasis added); and

2) With respect to the Examiner's concerns over the recited number of slitters and turnbar rollers utilized in conjunction with Figure 3, and without conceding to the validity of the Examiner's assertion in this regard, Applicant has amended claim 21 to remove the questioned numerical relationship.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 16, 21 and 23 now be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 21

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 21 over Katz. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Katz does not disclose at least each and every element of independent claims 1 and 18, as newly amended.

With respect to independent claim 1, and without conceding to the validity of the Examiner's position in this regard, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 in an effort to advance prosecution. More specifically, Applicant has amended claim 1 to now explicitly recite,

"said master roller and said slave roller being oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller".

Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz does not disclose such a structural orientation of elements. In particular, Applicant firstly points out that Katz's 'crimp roller' 168/169 is not capable of 'transversely cutting the web of ribbons', as recited in the outstanding Office Action and as explicitly claimed in claim 1. That is, as discussed in column 6, line 64 through column 7, line 22, Katz's crimp roller 168/169 merely provides pressure to cause a hold down ribbon to form over the already cut web.

Moreover, and with particular respect to the structural orientation of the master and slave rollers as recited above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz has no teaching or suggestion of forming or disposing a master and slave roller assembly in the manner now recited in claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action indicates that the "driven master and slave rollers (left of cross cutter in figure 8)" read upon Applicant's master and slave rollers. If the outstanding Office Action is referring to the rollers of conveyor 162, Applicant respectfully asserts that these rollers are, *inter alia*, not disposed on opposing planar sides of any of the web ribbons. Moreover, even the un-numerated rollers located

under numeral 160 in Figure 8 of Katz are not oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, nor is there any indication, teaching or suggestion within Katz that these rollers are in any way driven or directly coupled.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claim 1 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to independent claim 1, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

With respect to independent claim 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that since claim 18 also recites that, *'said master roller and said slave roller are oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said first web ribbon and said second web ribbon, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller'*, similar to claim 1, Katz also cannot anticipate claim 18 for the reasons as discussed above.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claim 18 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claim 18, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to independent claim 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Applicant earnestly believes that claims 1 and 18, at least, clearly define over Katz, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 16, 18 and 21

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 12, 16, 18 and 21 over Katz in view of Kishine. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Katz in view of

Kishine, either alone or in combination, does not disclose at least each and every element of independent claims 1, 18 and 21, as newly amended.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 18, and without conceding to the validity of the Examiner's position in this regard, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 in an effort to advance prosecution. More specifically, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to now explicitly recite,

"said master roller and said slave roller being oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller".

Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz does not disclose such a structural orientation of elements, as discussed above. Moreover, as also discussed and with particular respect to the structural orientation of the master and slave rollers as recited in claims 1 and 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz has no teaching or suggestion of forming or disposing a master and slave roller assembly in the manner now recited in claims 1 and 18.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claims 1 and 18 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claims 1 and 18, Kishine adding no pertinent disclose in this regard, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

With particular respect to independent claim 21, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Katz nor Kishine disclose or render obvious each and every aspect of claim 21.

Claim 21 specifically recites that the master drive roller is 'in continuous contact with a primary web ribbon', and further, that 'a slave roller is driven at a rotational speed greater than that of the master roller'. Applicant respectfully asserts that

regardless of which rollers in Katz are chosen to read upon Applicant's master and slave rollers, none of Katz's rollers meet, at least, both of the recitations expressed above.

Moreover, Applicant earnestly submits that the assertion in the outstanding Office Action that, "it is well known in the art of web handling conveyors to have some of the rollers exceed the speed of the web and to exceed the speed of others rollers", is an overly broad and impermissible framing of the issues at hand. That is, as discussed in MPEP § 2141.02, "[i]n determining the differences between the prior art and the claims, the question under 35 U.S.C. 103 is not whether the differences themselves would have been obvious, but whether the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious" (emphasis in the original).

In the present case, Applicant respectfully suggests that it is not enough for the outstanding Office Action to merely cite a reference which has rollers operating at differing speeds in order to support the Examiner's Office Notice, but rather the Office Action must present a reference which, in the context of Applicants' claim 21, discloses that a master and slave roller assembly are driven such that the slave rotates faster than does the master, keeping in mind the other structural relationships and recitations of claim 21. In this regard, and in accordance with MPEP 2144.03, second paragraph, that the Examiner specifically cite a reference to support the Official Notice taken in the outstanding Office Action, Kishine being overly broad and deficient in this regard.

Still further, a review of Kishine indicates that Kishine merely provides that the "puller rollers are controlled in such a manner that the peripheral speeds of the pull rollers *are faster than a running speed of the web*" (emphasis added). That is, Kishine does not even support the proposition for which it is being cited, namely that a master and slave roller assembly is driven such that the rotational *speed of the slave* is faster than the *speed of the master roller*, not the web itself as recited in Kishine.

As neither Katz nor Kishine can recite each and every aspect of claim 21 as newly amended, and given that Kishine does not even teach the limitations for which it is

being cited in support of the Examiner's Official Notice, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claim 21, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Moreover, should the Examiner reapply Kishine, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out where the specific recitation of claim 21 can be found within Kishine. Should another reference be utilized to support the Examiner's Official Notice in this regard, Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the claim *as a whole*, pursuant to MPEP § 2141.02, and indicate where the specific recitation of claim 21 can be found within the newly applied reference in support of the Examiner's Official Notice.

Applicant earnestly believes that claims 1, 18 and 21, at least, clearly define over both Katz and Kishine, either alone or in combination, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21 and 23

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21 and 23 over Katz in view of Hamlin. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Katz in view of Hamlin, either alone or in combination, does not disclose at least each and every element of independent claims 1, 18 and 21, as newly amended.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 18, and without conceding to the validity of the Examiner's position in this regard, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 in an effort to advance prosecution. More specifically, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to now explicitly recite,

"said master roller and said slave roller being oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller".

Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz does not disclose such a structural orientation of elements, as discussed above. Moreover, as also discussed and with particular respect to the structural orientation of the master and slave rollers as recited in claims 1 and 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz has no teaching or suggestion of forming or disposing a master and slave roller assembly in the manner now recited in claims 1 and 18.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claims 1 and 18 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claims 1 and 18, Hamlin adding no pertinent disclose in this regard, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

With particular respect to independent claim 21, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Katz nor Hamlin disclose or render obvious each and every aspect of claim 21.

Claim 21 specifically recites that the master drive roller is 'in continuous contact with a primary web ribbon', and further, that 'a slave roller is driven at a rotational speed greater than that of the master roller'. Applicant respectfully asserts that regardless of which rollers in Katz are chosen to read upon Applicant's master and slave rollers, none of Katz's rollers meet, at least, both of the recitations expressed above, Hamlin adding no pertinent disclosure in this regard.

As neither Katz nor Hamlin can recite each and every aspect of claim 21 as newly amended, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claim 21, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Applicant earnestly believes that claims 1, 18 and 21, at least, clearly define over both Katz and Hamlin, either alone or in combination, however, should the Examiner

believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 21

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 16, 21 and 23 over Katz in view of Bahrani and Miller. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Katz in view of Bahrani and Miller, either alone or in combination, does not disclose at least each and every element of independent claims 1, 18 and 21, as newly amended.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 18, and without conceding to the validity of the Examiner's position in this regard, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 in an effort to advance prosecution. More specifically, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to now explicitly recite,

"said master roller and said slave roller being oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller".

Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz does not disclose such a structural orientation of elements, as discussed above. Moreover, as also discussed and with particular respect to the structural orientation of the master and slave rollers as recited in claims 1 and 18, Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz has no teaching or suggestion of forming or disposing a master and slave roller assembly in the manner now recited in claims 1 and 18.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claims 1 and 18 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claims 1 and 18, neither Bahrani nor Miller adding any pertinent disclose in this regard, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal

of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 18, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

With particular respect to independent claim 21, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Katz, Bahrani nor Miller disclose or render obvious each and every aspect of claim 21.

Claim 21 specifically recites that the master drive roller is 'in continuous contact with a primary web ribbon', and further, that 'a slave roller is driven at a rotational speed greater than that of the master roller'. Applicant respectfully asserts that regardless of which rollers in Katz are chosen to read upon Applicant's master and slave rollers, none of Katz's rollers meet, at least, both of the recitations expressed above, neither Bahrani nor Miller adding any pertinent disclosure in this regard.

As neither Katz, Bahrani nor Miller can recite each and every aspect of claim 21 as newly amended, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to independent claim 21, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Applicant earnestly believes that claims 1, 18 and 21, at least, clearly define over Katz, Bahrani and Miller, either alone or in combination, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 19

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 over Katz in view of Bahrani. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully assert that Katz in view of Bahrani, either alone or in combination, does not disclose at least each and every element of independent claim 18, as newly amended.

With respect to claim19, Applicant has amended independent claim18 in an effort to advance prosecution. More specifically, Applicant has amended claim18 to now explicitly recite,

"said master roller and said slave roller being oriented on opposing planar sides of at least one of said web ribbons, wherein said master roller is directly coupled to said slave roller".

Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz does not disclose such a structural orientation of elements, as discussed above. Moreover, as also discussed and with particular respect to the structural orientation of the master and slave rollers as recited in claim18, Applicant respectfully asserts that Katz has no teaching or suggestion of forming or disposing a master and slave roller assembly in the manner now recited in claim 18.

As Katz cannot recite each and every aspect of claim 18 as newly amended, and given that Katz neither recites nor illustrates the claimed structure or structural orientation recited in independent claim 18, Bahrani adding no pertinent disclose in this regard, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to claim 19 for at least the reasons that claim 18 is believed to be allowable.

Applicant earnestly believes that claim 18, at least, clearly define over both Katz and Bahrani, either alone or in combination, however, should the Examiner believe that there remains any outstanding issues, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's Representative so as to expedite resolution of these outstanding issues, via an Examiner's Amendment or the like.

CONCLUSION

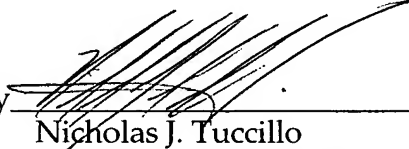
In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11-16, 18, 19, 21 and 23 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no additional fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No.13-0235 in the event any additional fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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